News release

Award for cool idea

13 June 2005

An innovative service designed by the Met Office with the assistance of bmi, Ryanair and Virgin Atlantic to minimise airport delays has been shortlisted for the 2005 Aerospace Awards to be held in Paris this week.

The web-based Aircraft de-icing forecast service was launched in November 2004 and gives airlines the precise information needed to decide when de-icing is necessary. It provides estimates of hold-over times for the following 24-hour period (the time window following de-icing by which the aircraft must either take-off or be de-iced again) as well as temperature, weather conditions, likelihood of snow, and the icing risk for the next five days. The site-specific service is fully quality controlled by experienced forecasters and tailored to the local weather conditions at each airport.

Jamie Redjeb, bmi Operations Manager, Heathrow, said: "The service really helps us set day-to-day operational priorities and allows for better planning, saving us money and reducing costs."

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